

MINUTES of the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING on April 15, 2025

Janet Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. There were 21 electors present.

Clerk/Treasurer Pamela Donart-Welcome swore in the newly elected Town Board Chair Nancy Goss, and Supervisors Janet Johnson and Cathy Ward.

Dave Westen moved, Billy Appel seconded to approve the minutes of the Annual meeting held on April 16, 2024. **Carried by voice vote**, no nays heard.

Dave Westen moved, Dave Studebaker seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Town meeting held on November 13, 2024. **Carried by voice vote**, no nays heard.

2024 Annual Audit Report – Megan Hovell, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, presented a draft of the annual audit. She referenced items on the following pages for clarification: p. 4 (CLA issued a clean, un-modified opinion of the Town of Liberty Grove, which is the best opinion that they can offer), p. 8 (contains all of the Town's long-term activities), p. 11 (CLA noted the Town had a healthy cash balance at the end of the year, and a good "unassigned" balance of \$1,144,900.00), p. 12 (CLA noted the Statement of Net Position is positive), p. 13 (CLA noted the Town's revenues and expenses result in a net change of positive \$168,213.00), p. 16 (CLA noted the water-sewer billing reflects what is actually being used for infrastructure and repairs & maintenance to the utility district), p. 47-52 (CLA noted the *deficiency in internal control* is very common for municipalities of our size, because the duties of clerk and treasurer are combined and performed by one person, so are not segregated; CLA prepares the financial report documents; adjustments are done via journal entries that are included in the financial statements). Meghan Hovell summarized by stating the audit did not uncover any significant or unusual transactions, and shared that the Town continues to be in good financial condition.

Nancy Goss moved, Dave Westen seconded to approve the **2024 audit** as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP. **Carried by voice vote**, no nays heard.

Updates from Town Committees:

Dale Stewart, Chair of the **Highway Committee** began by reading the Highway Committee mission statement: "The Highway Committee provides recommendations to the Liberty Grove Town Board and the Town Highway Department staff, endeavoring to provide **safe** roads for vehicular traffic using the most efficient and cost-effective methods possible." He then went on to address the recent concerns of some Town residents regarding the proposed changes to Ordinance 15-23, and clarified that any updates to the language was solely meant to align better with existing policy on cutting and brushing in the right of way along the shoulders of Town roads only when necessary to ensure the safety and longevity of those roads.

Cathy Ward, Chair of the **Parks & Property Committee** shared that including Town parks, County & State parks, the beach/launch areas, Nature Conservancy land and cemeteries, nearly 18% of Door County's preserved & conserved land is in Liberty Grove. She also shared status updates on P&P projects, including the new wind phone installation at Isle View Park, the in-progress Disc Golf Course project in Gills Rock, the improvements at little Sister Cemetery, and the environmental studies & required remediation prior to building removal at Mariner Park.

Janet Johnson, Town Board Chair, gave an update on the **Townwide Broadband project**. She noted that in February, the Town signed a memorandum of understanding with Frontier to put in place town-wide fiber internet with residence speeds up to 7G up & down, and small business speeds of at least 2G up & down at total cost of approximately \$20 million. Service costs would start at \$65/mo for regular residential service. Frontier has agreed to cover 18% of the cost, the Town 31% of the cost, and BEAD grant funding covering 51% of the cost. The Town is in contact with Frontier on a regular basis, and at their last conversation, all the paperwork is being submitted on time, and we should hear the BEAD award results by mid-July. Once the funding comes through, Frontier is ready to begin the installation process.

Town Elector Business –in response to the good report form the Auditors, Dave Westen of 10697 Sumac Lane thanked the Town Board, the staff, and the Committees for using our taxpayer money wisely.

Chairman Comments – Town Board Chair Janet Johnson thanked everyone who could attend this meeting to understand not only how our tax money is spent, but also all the work of our Committees. She said it's been an honor to serve as Liberty Grove's first female elected Chairman of the Board. She also wanted to thank the Town maintenance crew, office staff for all that they do. And gave special thanks to our Town Administrator we've had for the last 43 years. She mentioned the importance of participating in our Town government, and encouraged younger folks to run for Town office to make a difference, and plan the future of Liberty Grove.

Dale Stewart moved, Walter "Bud" Kalms seconded to set the 2026 Annual Meeting to be held on April 21, 2026. **Carried by voice vote**, no nays heard.

Janet Johnson moved, Bud Kalms seconded to adjourn the 2025 Annual Meeting at 7:59pm. **Carried by voice vote**, no nays heard.

Respectfully submitted

Pamela Donart-Welcome, Clerk/Treasurer

Approved at the 4/21/26 Annual Meeting